

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHEHALIS MAYOR  
DENNIS DAWES

**HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Dennis Dawes of Chehalis who is retiring from Chehalis City Council at the end of this year. Our community owes Mayor Dawes our sincere gratitude; he has dedicated his professional life to public service. He began his distinguished career in the Chehalis Police Department, where he rose through the ranks to become police chief. Mayor Dawes also served six terms on the Chehalis School Board from 1983 to 2007, and even worked as a bus driver for the Centralia School District. Ever active in his community, Mayor Dawes has also volunteered as a referee in local basketball and football games. Most recently, he has spent the last sixteen years as a city councilor in Chehalis, with eight of those years in his current role as mayor.

Mayor Dawes exemplifies what it means to be a public servant and has worked diligently for decades to improve the community he loves. It is truly my honor to work with exceptional, motivated, and dedicated leaders like him. While his official public service may be coming to an end, I am confident Mayor Dawes will continue to serve his neighbors in the Chehalis community, and I wish him the best in his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA COURTS HOME  
RULE ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts Home Rule Act. This bill would give the Council of the District of Columbia authority over the jurisdiction and organization of the local D.C. courts. The D.C. Home Rule Act (HRA) expressly prohibits the Council from enacting any law with respect to any provision of the D.C. Code title that relates to the local D.C. courts. Congress can correct this injustice to the District's federal taxpaying residents by amending the HRA, even before the District becomes the 51st state.

Forty-eight years after passage of the HRA, matters involving the local D.C. courts almost never come to Congress, so Congress knows virtually nothing about the District's local courts—and could not care less. Notwithstanding the importance of D.C.'s local courts to District residents, the D.C. Council, which is the repository of knowledge and experience for the District's criminal and civil justice sys-

tems and the body accountable to our residents, is irresponsibly left on the sidelines while Congress remains the sole entity that may correct flaws in the District's local courts.

Under the HRA, the Council has no authority to “enact any act, resolution, or rule with respect to any provision of title 11 of the District of Columbia Code (relating to organization and jurisdiction of the District of Columbia courts).” Matters in title 11 are limited primarily to the rules of criminal and civil procedure, court administration, the branches of the courts, the rules of jury service and admission to the bar. Our bill would strike this limitation on the Council's authority.

The District has never had authority over its local courts, even when it was responsible for paying for their operations. Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, the federal government assumed the costs for several state-level functions, including the courts because the federal government alone has jurisdiction over the courts. This bill would not change the courts' funding. This bill also would not change the authority of the President to nominate, or the Senate to confirm, local D.C. judges, which has been within their purview since the creation of the modern local court system in 1970.

This bill is an important step to increase democratic self-government for the District. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MRS. LINDA B. CONLIN

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Linda B. Conlin on the occasion of her retirement.

Linda has served the people of the United States of America in her role as a Department of the Army Civilian for over 39 years. Her long and distinguished career of service began in 1973 as a Kindergarten teacher in a small DoD school in the East-West German border kaserne of Bad Hersfeld, Germany. She finishes her career with over 25 years in the Washington, D.C. area-serving in the Army's Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, and most recently for the last 17 years as the Support Division Chief in the National Guard Bureau's Office of Legislative Liaison. Linda has received a Commander's Award for Civilian Service and several Superior Civilian Service Awards.

As the Co-Chair of the National Guard and Reserve Caucus, I especially want to thank her for her service with the National Guard Bureau's Office of Legislative Liaison.

2021 will undoubtedly go down in history as, “The Year of the National Guard.” This year, the National Guard continued its mission to fight the scourge that is the COVID-19 pandemic, conducted a mobilization of 25,000

troops to defend our Capitol—the bastion of our Democracy, responded to countless natural disasters ranging from fires, to floods, to hurricanes, all while continuing to protect us from our adversaries abroad.

Throughout this tumultuous year, the National Guard Bureau's Office of Legislative Liaison supported my office, and all of Congress, in unprecedented ways. Linda was critical in providing this support and embodied the spirit of the Guard's motto: “Always Ready, Always There.”

This country is losing a true patriot today, her loss will be noticed. As she begins her new adventures, I wish Linda and her family with nothing but health and happiness in her retirement.

SUPPORTING THE TREAT AND  
REDUCE OBESITY ACT

**HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, the number of Americans living with obesity is reaching record levels. Today, nearly 100 million Americans are living with obesity, a complex chronic condition associated with other diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, stroke, and even cancer.

Obesity also disproportionately impacts communities of color, particularly Black and Latino adults. Nearly half (49.6 percent) of Black Americans and 44.8 percent of Latino Americans are living with obesity, compared to 42.2 percent of their white counterparts. In my district in Southern California, which is more than two-thirds Latino, rates of diabetes and obesity are among the highest in the state.

Unfortunately, outdated Medicare rules deny access to effective obesity care for millions of Americans. Despite a 2013 decision by the American Medical Association recognizing obesity as a treatable disease, Medicare still stigmatizes obesity as a choice and denies access to the full continuum of care.

This is something we can change. Right now, there is legislation—The Treat and Reduce Obesity Act—that would modernize Medicare by providing access to anti-obesity medications and intensive behavioral therapy, thus expanding care to millions of Americans.

New data shows that the American people support Congressional action to expand access to coverage for obesity treatments. 70 percent of adults surveyed in a recent Morning Consult poll conducted on behalf of the Obesity Care Advocacy Network support expanding Medicare coverage for prevention and treatment of obesity in adults.

I urge all of Congress to join me in supporting the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act to begin to address our obesity epidemic in California and across the country.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

## NATIONAL PULSE MEMORIAL

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose the out-of-control defense spending contained in this year's National Defense Authorization Act. At a topline level of \$768.2 billion, this bill is larger than any previous pentagon spending bill. It's even bigger than what the President asked for by \$25 billion.

This excess is particularly egregious when compared to the military spending of our potential adversaries. We spend more on the US military than the next eleven countries combined.

And all this funding is being poured into an agency that is perennially unaccountable to the American public. It has been 30 years since all federal agencies were required to pass audits. And after three decades the Department of Defense (DOD) remains the only agency in the federal government that has so far failed to pass an audit. The most recent prediction from the department for a clean audit is 2028.

Yet we see numerous examples of fraud, waste, and abuse from this department, from legacy weapons systems built for the cold war, to the billions in documented waste in Afghanistan.

The military has rightly identified the climate crisis as one of the biggest and most immediate threats to American lives and interests. And yet the Pentagon still hasn't fully reported on its own greenhouse gas emissions. And every excessive dollar spent on the Pentagon isn't available for the investments we need to make in mitigation and adaptation to protect us and the world from the impacts of climate change.

Especially frustrating to me about this bill is the fact that needed reforms to advance racial justice and combat extremism and white supremacy were excluded in the negotiations that produced this compromise legislation. Our military leaders have been clear about the need to address extremism within the ranks and provide equal justice for Black and Brown servicemen and women. By failing to address these issues adequately in this bill, we don't just let down our men and women in uniform, we let down the country and betray our ideals.

Enough is enough. Americans are demanding that Congress rebalance our priorities and invest in the biggest challenges America faces. We face imminent threats from the COVID pandemic, Climate Change, domestic terrorism, growing economic inequality, and systemic racial and ethnic inequities. It is time to shift our spending priorities to meet these urgent human security priorities. I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

HONORING CPT. MITCH PHILLIPS

**HON. VICKY HARTZLER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of one of Missouri's

finest, Captain Mitch Phillips, who is retiring after 28 years of dedicated service in the Cass County Sheriffs Office.

Cpt. Phillips started his career attending what is now known as the University of Central Missouri. While there, he discovered a call to serve and protect his community and decided to pursue a career in public service. Cpt. Phillips first joined the Garden City Police Department after graduating from the National Police Academy in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Shortly thereafter, Cpt. Phillips became acquainted with the deputies from the Cass County Sheriffs Office and knew that his call to service would lead him there. In August of 1993, Cpt. Phillips joined the Cass County Sheriffs Office as a Patrol Deputy. As a result of his hard work and demonstrated leadership capabilities, Cpt. Phillips quickly rose to the rank of Sergeant in November of 1995.

Cpt. Phillips has held various leadership positions within the Cass County Sheriffs Office and has cultivated an environment that promotes integrity, dedication, and excellence from all his officers. His unwavering, steadfast support for his brothers and sisters in uniform truly represents the values of Missouri.

As any of the men and women that wear the badge can tell you, service does not come without sacrifice. No officer bears the burdens alone. For more than 28 years, Cpt. Phillips put the safety and wellbeing of the citizens of Cass County above his own, with the support of his wife, Michele, his three children, who stood beside their husband and father throughout all the hardships that the nature of law enforcement placed before them. We owe them all a debt of gratitude.

His life verse, Mathew 7:12, is one we all should abide by—"So in everything, do unto others as you would have them do unto you . . ." Cpt. Phillips embodies all the qualities that make an excellent officer and public servant. Please join me in recognizing and honoring this heroic police officer and his years of self-less service to protecting our community.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 401. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on Roll Call No. 401.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES R. BAIRD**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, on December 8, 2021 my vote was mistakenly recorded as "NO" on H.R. 4996—the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, a bill that I was a proud co-sponsor of, despite my vote being correctly announced as "YES" by my proxy. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on Roll Call No. 406.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHRIS JACOBS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I am recorded as not voting on Roll Call No. 412, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 1155—Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act. Had I been recorded, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 412.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Numbers 436 through 440 on December 9, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 436; NAY on Roll Call No. 437; NAY on Roll Call No. 438; NAY on Roll Call No. 439; and YEA on Roll Call No. 440.

## RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF EL COMERCIO DE COLORADO

**HON. JASON CROW**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of El Comercio de Colorado for receiving 14 national journalism awards granted by the National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP).

In my time in Congress, I have been proud to represent the most diverse district in Colorado. With people from all walks of life and over 120,000 immigrants calling our community home, our diversity makes our community a stronger and more vibrant place to live.

As our district's Latino and Hispanic populations have grown, El Comercio de Colorado has offered high-quality Spanish-language content for our community. As the publication has gained recognition, Jesus Sanchez, chief editor of El Comercio de Colorado, has made it his mission to provide our Spanish-speaking community with a publication that provides well-sourced information about what is happening across our district and nation.

The hard work and dedication shown by Jesus and his staff at El Comercio de Colorado has more than paid off as the publication was awarded 14 national journalism awards by the NAHP, including five first place recognitions for Outstanding Entertainment Section, Outstanding Latin American Article, Outstanding Community Photo, Outstanding Cultural Photo Essay, and Outstanding Editorial Audio. These awards truly demonstrate the hard-earned trust El Comercio de Colorado has built within our community.

It goes without saying that the Latino and Hispanic communities in our district play an integral role in making the Sixth District a better